

A convert of John Wesley's,,one Robert Williams established himself in the Gamber area in the late 1700's, was the earliest founder and leader of what grew to be Calvary Methodist. The present brick structure of American bond has pointed arch stained glass windows whose simple lines create a note of elegance in an otherwise rather stocky, solid building.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carr. -171

MACE #0701714709

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Providence Meeting House  
Providence Methodist Protestant Church

AND/OR COMMON

Calvary United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3939 Gamber Road (MD 91)

CITY, TOWN

Finksburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

14

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☒ BOTH  
PUBLIC ACQUISITION  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
ACCESSIBLE  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Calvary Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3939 Gamber Road

CITY, TOWN

Finksburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md.**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, etc.  
Carroll County Court House

Liber #: 386

Folio #: 274

STREET &amp; NUMBER

225 North Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

CARR-171

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE 1907

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1827 - log church named Providence Meeting House and it stood about 250 yards below the present church.

1872 - second church was brick

1907 - This American Bond brick church sits about twenty yards off the south/east side of Maryland Route 91 which runs between Finksburg and Gamber. It is perched on a hill facing N/W. The gable roofs of this structure which is basically a stocky L-shape, are covered with standing seam and end in a box cornice.

The S/W side accomodates an all brick, square tower with turrets at each corner. Under the open belfry which has pointed arch openings on every side is dental brickwork. Below this in each exposed side of the tower is a small pointed arch window. Below this, and on the ground level is the front entrance encased in a pointed arch frame, with recessed double 6/panel doors, and a stained glass transom which reads "Providence M.P. Church". The transom has three rows of brick voussoir trim. On this same level and on the other exposed wall is a pointed arch stained glass window.

The tower stands in the corner of the L between the short and long leg. The short leg, farthest south, has a group of three stained glass pointed arch windows on its gable wall, a large central one and two smaller flanking it. This wall also accomodates an exterior single brick chimney, and it is connected to the 1963 brick addition at the southernmost corner. (the above windows, as do all others have plain wood trim and double rows of voussoir brick trim). The northeast side is the same as the former, but without the tower and with a single entrance door with a pointed, stained glass transom on the short leg of the N/W wall, which leads into the nave.

The northeast front wall has decorative brickwork under the gable and the same window group is as the other gable walls; one large, two flanking small.

The southeast back is a later addition to the church and the original back wall is mostly unexposed. The only exposed section of this S/E wall is a one-bay, double six-panelled door with a stained glass transom, and plain wood trim. This addition has a three-bay S/W side wall of two windows and one single door, and a two-bay S/E back wall, the same formation as its opposite wall.

INTERIOR ... is eight pews deep with three semi-circular rows of pews with an aisle between each row and an aisle on the end. The carpeted floor slants towards the south/east chancel. The pointed arch ceiling and walls are plastered.

A panelled wood folding divider spearates the nave and the northern fellowship area which accomodates the N/W stained glass window group. South of this, is the small rectangular narthex with three transomed doors leading to the outside, fellowship room and nave. The door to the nave is a double six-panelled one with a pointed arch stained glass transom. The northeast wall of the nave has three bays, one large pointed arch window and two smaller ones flanking it. All windows are recessed and have deep sills.

The southwest wall has two bays of windows and one bay door which leads to the new section.

On the right side of the southeast chancel and altar are two windows and on the left a double six-panelled door with a stained glass transom. (This is the same door mentioned on the remaining exposed section of the back wall.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1827/1872/1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building, though modern, represents a history significant to Methodism in the county. Methodism in Gamber dates back to the late 1700's when a convert of John Wesley's, one Robert Williams came from England and settled on an old farmhouse. He also erected a primitive sod house for preaching --he is discussed in CARR. -43, the former Mount Pleasant Methodist.

The congregation which grew from Williams' beginnings, purchased a piece of land, built a log church in 1827, and named it Providence Meeting House. Very shortly thereafter, in 1828, the church split as it did nationally, over church issues concerning self-government and equal rights for laity and clergy. The land and Providence Meeting House were given to the supporters of equalization, the Methodist Protestants. The Methodist Episcopal, moved out after dissension was superficially settled to various meeting places and finally to a log structure on Maryland 32. This was in 1843. The congregation incorporated itself as the Mt. Pleasant Episcopal Church. In 1872, erected was a stone church on the same spot. Today it is the home of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Carr. -43).

Meanwhile, Providence had kept its name since the split. Worship continued in the log structure from 1827-1872, which stood about two hundred and fifty yards below the present Calvary Church. In 1872 a second church of brick was built and proved adequate until 1907 when the present structure was built, still under the name of Providence.

The "Providence Split" in 1828 predated the formation of the first Methodist Protestant Conference in Baltimore in 1830. These Methodist Protestants of Gamber were worshipping under that title two years before formal meetings took place in Baltimore. They may have been the first church congregation of M.P.'s anywhere.

The Methodist Episcopal and Metho. Pros merged informally in 1939, due partly to the youth of both congregations. Every Sunday, during the divided years one group would travel to the others church for Christian meetings, to keep the two congregations together spiritually, if not physically. This well meant undercurrent gave the two congregations a secondary, but single focal point.

Once a national merger occurred, local ones followed: In December of 1943 the Methodist Churches were reunited under the name 'Calvary' and under the Providence roof. The reunion produced pain and joy in varying degrees between parishoners and within relationships, nevertheless the congregation grew. In the early 60's the church expanded its facilities with a new church school and parsonage. Since 1965 the congregation has almost doubled.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- "Gamber Church Splits, Unites" Carroll County Times 5/27/77  
 "Service of Merger for the Union of the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church and the Providence Methodist Church" service program 12/31/43  
 "Calvary Methodist Church" 20th Anniversary of the Service of merger  
 --service program

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Carroll

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Fredi Eckhardt historic site surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Carroll County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Winter 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

210 East Main Street

TELEPHONE

848-6494

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

Providence Meeting House  
Providence Methodist Protestant Church  
Calvary United Methodist Church

7 DESCRIPTION

1872 Church

...was a 3 x 4 bay brick structure with a front interior, square, open belfry. Windows on this one and a half story church appears to have been 4/4 panes, double hung sash, with plain trim. The gable roof had a box cornice supported by decorative brackets. A gable roofed porch with a central landing and two one-run stairs on either side led to it and the front entrance. Working basement windows appear to have been the same as the first story.

The back of the church accomodated a single brick chimney with a brick rounded-arch cover. The cemetary stood behind.

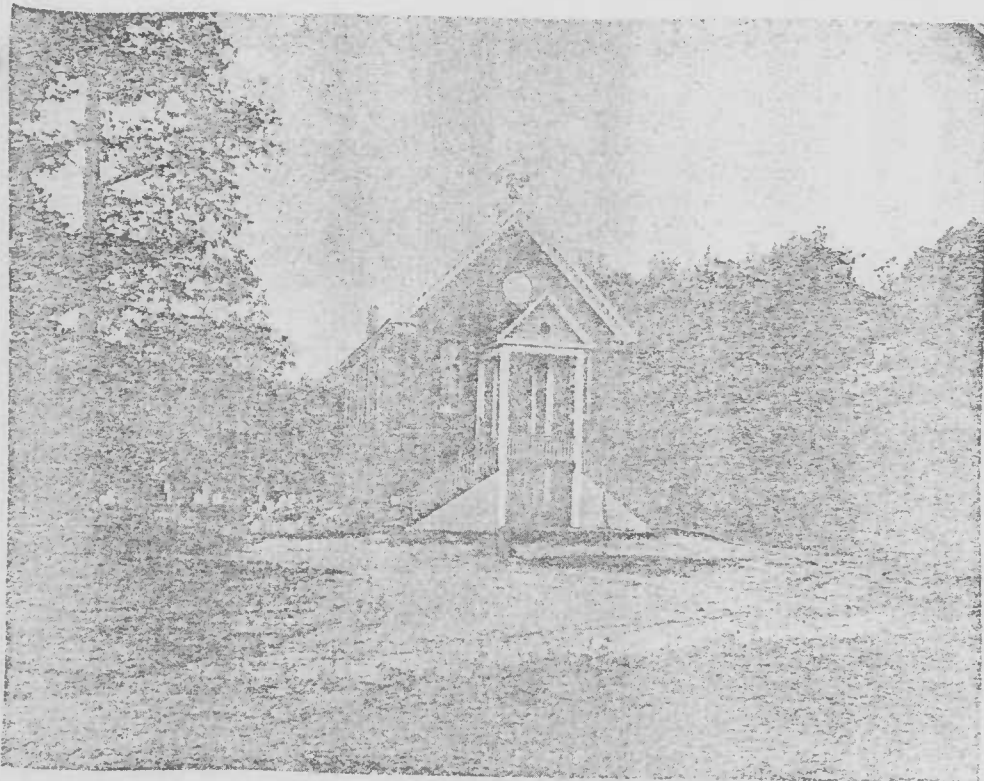
### Methodism in Gamber and Vicinity

Methodism in the Gamber vicinity dates back to the late 1700's when one Reverend Robert Williams, a convert of John Wesley, came from England and settled on the farm later known as the old Slaysman farm (now the Olin Grimes property.) There, near a spring he built a large sod covered dwelling in which he lived. Following the English order of house meetings or society meetings he opened it for worship and preached the gospel. Reports are that people would come from great distances and the room would be so full "at the revival meetings that they would stand the little folks up in the windows to make more room."

This congregation purchased a piece of land and built a log church in 1827 calling it the Providence Meeting House. But Methodism in Gamber was to go two directions just as it was destined to move in two directions in the national scene of American Methodism. A sharp disagreement split the congregation. Squire Stocksdales settled the dissension by awarding the building and land to those who were for church self-government and equal rights of clergy and laity. The sympathizers of the episcopal form of church polity moved out.

The M. E.'s rented for a short time an old school house on the Deer Park farm down next to the Ivory Paper Mill Road; later moving to a big shed near Louisville. The Providence people were not without sympathy for their M. E. brethren and showed their brotherly concern by a gift of \$300 for their new building.

The M. E.'s were later given property by Lloyd Pool fronting on the Westminster and Sykesville state road, about nine miles south-east of Westminster. The first building was a log building, erected about 1843 and possibly earlier. It was named the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Chapel of Carroll County, Maryland.



Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, built 1843.  
Providence Methodist Protestant Church, 1872-1907





Calvary Methodist

Feb. - 79

Can. - 171

S/w elevator & s/w front  
+ tower

fred E.



Calvary Methodist

Feb. - 79

Can. - 171

N/W elevation

fredi E.



Calvary Methodist

Feb. - 79

Can. - 171

N/E elevation + N/W front

fred E.